

Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 /093 W

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R 050324Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8141

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 1715

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, ASAF, NZ

SUBJ: PRESS PLAY ON INQUIRY OF PANAM PLANE CRASH AT PAGO PAGO

REF: A. CERP. B. STATE 048391

1. ARTICLES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPEARING IN PRESS ON INQUIRY OF US NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) INTO PAN AM PLANE CRASH AT PAGO PAGO JANUARY 30 IN WHICH 16 NEW ZEALANDERS WERE AMONG 97 KILLED.

2. SOME ARTICLES TEND TO CREATE QUESTION IN READERS MIND ADEQUACY PAM AM'S FLIGHT SAFETY STANDARDS AS COMPARED WITH AIR NEW ZEALAND.

3. ARTICLES REPORT THAT MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION, DR. FINLAY, HAS EXPRESSED HIS KEEN INTEREST IN LEARNING THE FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED FROM NTSB BY NZ CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY.

4. CHAIRMAN NTSB QUOTED SAYING IN TEL INTERVIEW THAT FINDINGS WOULD NOT BE READY FOR ANOTHER MONTH OR SIX WEEKS.

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5. THOUGH GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST IN SUBJECT NOT

YET EVIDENT, FACT THAT 16 NEW ZEALANDERS DIED IN PAN
AM CRASH GIVES POTENTIAL FOR GENERATING SUCH INTEREST.
REPORTS SLANTING PARTIAL FINDINGS OF INQUIRY OR WORSE,
RAISING POSSIBLE SUSPICION FULL FINDINGS BEING WITH-
HELD TO PROTECT PAN AM COULD BE MOST HARMFUL.

6. PAM AM REPORTS SUCH ARTICLES HAVE ALREADY
AFFECTED SALES LOCALLY.

7. EMBASSY BELIEVES SOONER FULL RESULTS OF INQUIRY
CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION THE
LESS CHANCE PRESS COULD HAVE OF MAKING UNWARRANTED
STORIES DAMAGING TO PANAM.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SAFETY, PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740142-0413
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740671/aaaacjdf.tel
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Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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